



Town Of Amenia

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April 14, 2016

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
U.S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Rd. (Copake Falls); and three pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Rd. in Copake. These three components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail from Wassaic (Dutchess County) to Hillsdale (Columbia County), linking to New York City via Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the entire trail will be 46 miles in length.

This project will join two counties, NY State Parks, and a not for profit in a project which will become a destination for thousands of people from near and afar. The Town of Amenia has benefited greatly by having a significant segment of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail traverse nearly the entire length of the community. The town's comprehensive plan notes that the development of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail from the Wassaic Metro-North train station on Route 22 to the North East town line and beyond adds another feature to our community's recreational attractiveness.

The Town of Amenia is currently working toward construction of a 6/10th of mile extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail from the Wassaic train station into historic Wassaic hamlet. The project, known as the Wassaic Trail to the Train, offers an opportunity both to entice tourists to the historically interesting and unique hamlet of Wassaic and to provide a much-needed transportation link between the Wassaic train station and the hamlet of Wassaic.

I am pleased to support Dutchess County and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association in efforts to improve the northern segment of the rail trail as the Town seeks to improve the southern end. The Town recognizes that the development of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail has the potential to stimulate development of more recreational facilities and related service industries to provide services to the hikers, bikers, runners, dog-walkers, skateboarders, bird-watchers, and others who use the Rail Trail.

I am hopeful that you and the review committee will give careful consideration and grant approval to this important grant request by the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association which will greatly assist them in improving this valuable connection in eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Perotti". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" written in a larger, more prominent style than the last name "Perotti".

Victoria Perotti
Town Supervisor